

## **Global alliance FAQ for the UC Berkeley campus**

**Berkeley already has an extensive and diverse array of research-based partnerships with universities around the world. How is this alliance different, and why is it needed?**

All of Berkeley's existing research partnerships continue to be greatly valuable. But, as at other universities, virtually all of these partnerships are bilateral and focused on very specific research areas. This alliance will be multilateral by design. The new alliance will provide a framework through which new multilateral research collaborations can take place among the members, and directed toward larger-scale grand challenges and opportunities. By institutionalizing the process of engagement and collaboration among the partners, this alliance should open the way for scholars and students at the partner institutions to connect in ways that could not otherwise take place. New sorts of collaborations will not need to be negotiated from scratch, but will be able to build on the framework we are developing. In short, it represents a strategic commitment.

**If we're talking about global challenges, what difference can these universities make? Will there be more in the future?**

The alliance may gradually expand to include other universities of similar depth of scholarship and commitment — a number of universities across the world have already expressed interest. The process of forming the alliance has been one of continued conversations to develop a shared vision among the founding partners, rather than a matter of invitations to be formally accepted or declined. We expect that same consensual process will drive any future expansions of the alliance.

**How did these initial partners come together?**

There are already longstanding bilateral research collaborations among all the members of the alliance, so to some extent this alliance is a matter of

formalizing and advancing already existing relationships. But more than that, the alliance is intended to encourage and enable deeper, larger-scale collaboration and circulation of key faculty and students among our universities. On the broadest level, each of the founding institutions share in common a commitment to the highest academic standards in support of a public mission focused on supporting the greater good.

**What specific activities do you envision the alliance supporting, and where will it draw funding from to do so?**

We envision the alliance organizing research and educational activities around critical global issues, from global public health and climate change, to data science and precision medicine, to inequality and aging societies. Funding will initially be on a project-by-project basis. These are already areas of faculty-led shared interest among the partner institutions, and the global alliance signals a strategic commitment to deepening such collaborations.

**What, exactly, will Berkeley be committing to if/when an agreement is signed?**

All the partner institutions in the global alliance are committing to deepening and broadening existing collaborations among the institutions, as well as exploring new collaborations. The alliance represents a strategic commitment to working more closely together.

**What impact will this have on Berkeley's budget, now and in the future?**

The alliance will not affect Berkeley's budget in any direct manner, though we imagine that the research collaborations and educational programs associated with the alliance will be a way to bring in new resources (in the form of research support and potential self-supporting graduate educational programs) to each of the members. The alliance may also enable the members to attract philanthropy around global issues in a way an individual campus

may find difficult. And lastly, ground lease revenue could provide an additional source of revenue back to the central campus.

**The statement talks about a “governance structure.” Governance of what, exactly, and who would be governed?**

The critical governance questions to be negotiated are how the members will make decisions — for example which research topics to pursue through the alliance, who does what, and how new members should be brought into the alliance. The alliance will in no way compromise the sovereignty of any of the member universities over their own affairs.

**How will UC Berkeley and affiliated university faculty be able to engage with this alliance?**

Faculty from the partner institutions are already engaged, and we plan a variety of open discussions about other ways that faculty can participate. What the alliance does is provide a more formal context and container in which faculty collaborations among the partner institutions can take place.

**Why, exactly, are you making an announcement given that there is no agreement yet?**

This announcement represents a strategic commitment among the founding members to work toward deepening their relationships with one another. It signifies a first step toward substantiating a common vision.

**What’s next in terms of the timeline for the global alliance?**

In the coming months, the member institutions will be negotiating a more formal and specific agreement, including the critical question of how other institutions may be admitted to the alliance.

**How does this relate to the Berkeley Global Campus (BGC)? What does this mean for the BGC's timeline?**

Organizationally, they are separate. The global alliance is a multilateral research consortium of equals; whereas the Berkeley Global Campus will occupy part of a specific physical site in Richmond that is owned by the UC regents and managed by UC Berkeley. There is a linkage, however, as the Berkeley Global Campus is where UC Berkeley envisions that much of the Berkeley-based alliance activities will take place. In addition, the members of the alliance have expressed interest in participating in the Berkeley Global Campus and see this new partnership as a framework through which they will determine how they wish to engage and collaborate, along with other anticipated participants in the BGC from the academic, corporate and nonprofit sectors. Additionally, the alliance partners are creating infrastructure to support teaching and research on their own campuses

**In the past, discussions about the BGC have included mention of undergraduate programs as well, but there is no mention of that here. What does that mean?**

There may eventually be an undergraduate educational dimension to the global alliance, but the differences in educational programs and accreditation issues for undergraduates in different countries make that a more involved process. Graduate education and research are likely to be the focus in the near term.

The BGC — that is, Berkeley's own campus, as distinct from this new, global alliance — is likely to have an undergraduate aspect to it, although this has always been envisioned as a later phase in the project.

**Is there potential benefit for UC Berkeley students? For instance, will current and prospective graduate students be able to engage with faculty based on the interest of the alliance's projects?**

Yes, we envision that graduate students will participate in the research programs the alliance will engage in. It is also possible that various master's

programs will emerge from the alliance, which would of course be a benefit to new students.

**Will it be possible for an institution to be part of this alliance, but not part of the BGC... and vice versa?**

Yes.